

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 (ADP) W

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O R 171330 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8124

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3026

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNSC IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI POSITION ON UNSC DEBATE

REF: STATE 71104

1. FOREIGN MINISTER EBAN APRIL 17 TOLD CHARGE GOI WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER ATTITUDE OF BRITISH AND FRENCH RE UNSC DEBATE ON LEBANESE COMPLAINT. HE HAD TALKED WITH AMBASSADORS DINITZ IN WASHINGTON AND TEKOA IN NEW YORK AND WAS FAMILIAR WITH WHAT USG HAD SAID TO BRITISH AND FRENCH. HE HAD FULL REPORT OF ATHERTON- DINITZ CONVERSATION.

2. EBAN SAID HE HAD TOLD UK AMBASSADOR HERE THAT ISRAEL WOULD BE SHOCKED IF UK SUPPORTED A ONE- SIDED APPROACH TO RESOLUTION, ESPECIALLY ONE SUCH AS EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL TO APPLY SANCTIONS AND WITHHOLD AID. UK AMB REPLIED HE FELT SURE UK WOULD NOT ADOPT ANYTHING THAT SMELLED OF SANCTIONS OR WITHHOLDING AID.

3. EBAN TOLD CHARGE, HOWEVER, THAT " FROM VARIOUS SOURCES" GOI KNEW THAT UK/ FRANCE DRAFT UNDER CONSIDERATION IS MUCH CLOSER TO ARAB DRAFT THAN TO US SUGGESTIONS. HE THOUGHT USG OUGHT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT US WOULD VETO ANY RESOLUTION

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LESS BALANCED THAN ITS OWN SUGGESTED DRAFT. OTHERWISE, HE DID NOT SEE HOW US MOVE WOULD HAVE MUCH EFFECT ON DRAFT THAT WOULD BE SURFACED. CHARGE NOTED THAT POSSIBILITY OF VETO WAS IMPLICIT IN WHAT US HAD SAID TO OTHERS. EBAN MAINTAINED MEERE POSSIBILITY WAS NOT ENOUGH, IN HIS VIEW, TO HAVE ANY EFFECT: IT WOULD HAVE TO BE CLEAR AND UNEQUIVOCAL. ACTUALLY, HE DOUBTED ANY RESOLUTION COULD GET NINE VOTES AND STILL NOT BE VETOED BY US. THAT IS, IF IT "GOOD" IT WOULD NOT GET EVEN NINE VOTES AND IF IT "BAD" ENOUGH TO GET NINE VOTES THEN IT WOULD BE BOUND TO BE SO BAD THAT US WOULD DECIDE TO VETO.

4. EBAN SAID MRS. MEIR CONSIDERS IT IMPORTANT THERE BE NO WEAKENING ON PART OF US. ANY ABSTENTION BY US WOULD BE TAKEN AS A CHANGE IN POLICY, SINCE RESOLUTION AMB BUSH VETOED LAST YEAR WAS NOT AS BAD AS THOSE NOW BEING PRESENTED. IN LONG RUN, GOI THINKS THAT STEADFASTNESS OF US ON FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE WILL BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN PARLIAMENTARY OUTCOME IN THIS CASE.

5. COMMENT: FRANKLY, WE ARE SURPRISED AT LACK OF HARDER OPPOSITION BY ISRAELIS AGAINST US ILLUSTRATIVE DRAFT (STATE 70320). WHILE DINITZ' ARGUMENTS WERE IN LINE WITH WHAT WE WOULD EXPECT OF ISRAELIS, FACT THAT EBAN DID NOT ADD HIS PROTESTS SUGGESTS THAT THEY SEE LITTLE PROSPECT OF THIS DRAFT EVER COMING UP FOR VOTE AND THEREFORE DO NOT WANT TO ANTAGONIZE US BY ARGUING AGAINST IT. RATHER, THEY EXPECT AND MIGHT EVEN PREFER HARDLINE ARAB DRAFT WHICH WOULD EVOKE US VETO AND PERHAPS SOME OTHER NEGATIVE VOTES.

6. RE WORDING US ILLUSTRATIVE DRAFT, IN ADDITION TO QUESTION OF WHETHER THERE WERE " INNOCENT" DEATHS AT BEIRUT, WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY AT CYPRUS IF REFERENCE IS TO ATTACK ON AMBASSADOR' S RESIDENCE AND AIRCRAFT ON APRIL 9. AS FAR AS IS KNOWN HERE, ONLY DEATHS THAT OCCASION IN CYPRUS WERE FEDAYEEN.
ZURHELLEN

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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